



Tackling Poverty and Instability in eastern DR Congo: Enhanced Livelihoods, Improved Governance and Peacebuilding

About Tufaidike Wote

Tufaidike Wote is Swahili for Working Together for the Common Good. The project is led by CARE International in consortium with International Alert and the Food and Agriculture Organization. It is funded by USAID and is designed to tackle the intertwined problems of poverty and instability in eastern DR Congo. Key strategies involve including women in the peace process, building local structures to deal with conflict, and advocacy on key conflict issues. Another key component is resourcing joint community development activities for communities to have a common goal.

OBJECTIVE

The project aims to enhance stabilization through:

- Inducing socio-economic recovery, governance and peacebuilding;
- Addressing the underlying conflict inducing dynamics of resources, identity and power;
- Focusing especially on building opportunities for women to improve their livelihood and to contribute to public life.

STRATEGY

Tufaidike Wote believes that building capacities and creating spaces and opportunities for diverse groups in targeted communities to participate in a combination of reconciliation and recovery activities helps create peace and stability. An innovative combined community-driven approach anchors the three pillars of the project: (1) peacebuilding; (2) governance; (3) livelihoods.

The crosscutting theme are (1) inclusion (emphasis on women); (2) conflict sensitivity; (3) good governance; (4) participatory monitoring and learning. Through the community forum (an informal deliberative assembly) the various community structures are able to collaborate with local leaders to promote social accountability. In this way, the project promotes trust and shared responsibility between citizens and local government.

A rapid response fund enables the consortium to proactively support local initiatives for accelerated change through mitigating and/or managing emerging community tension and coping with emergencies.

Program Name: Tufaidike Wote
Country: Democratic Republic of Congo
Time: Feb. 2012-Sept. 2016
Budget: US\$ 22.7 million
Donor: USAID

Target Beneficiaries:

15 Communities in 7 districts of North and South Kivu
Indirect: 372,000 people
Direct: 11,694 households
 70,164 people

Key Groups:

- 120 VSLAs
- 6 peace groups
- 37 peace networks
- 95 centers for feedback and engagement



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Governance Achievements

- 15 communities are using community forums as spaces to resolve conflict
- Women now included in 15 community development committees
- 15 communities created five-year development plans
- 13 community projects completed:
 - 5 health clinics,
 - 2 maternity wards,
 - 2 water projects,
 - 1 school,
 - 3 town halls
- 6 community projects in

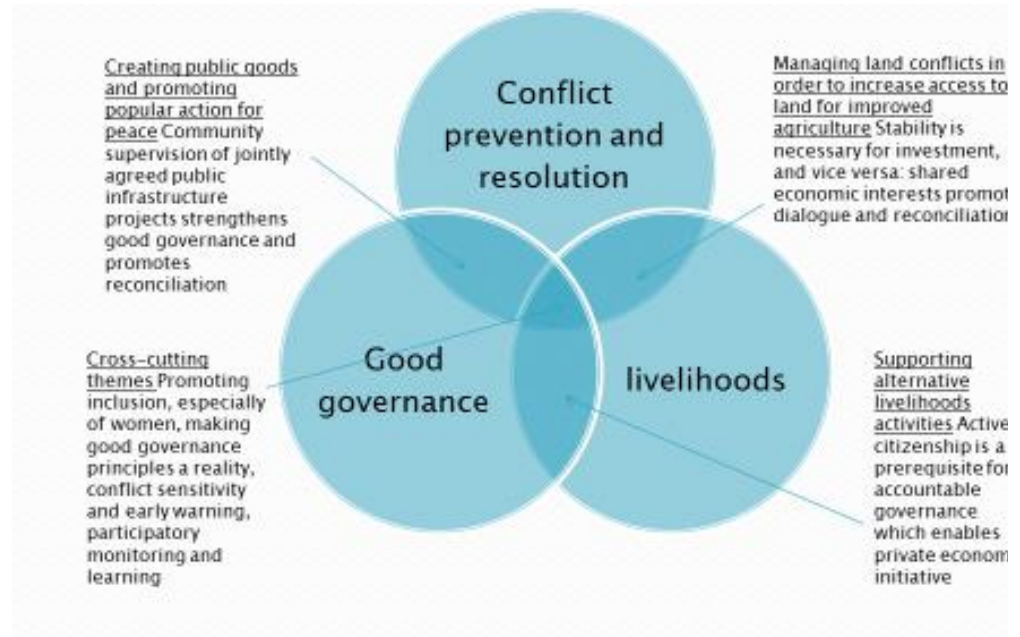
“Every citizen yearns to interact with their government. Until now this has not often been possible in our community “

- *Mate-Mutuku Elie
President, Peace and Development
Committee, Beni/North Kivu.*



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Combined Community Approach



Key Achievements

- **Increased access to land:** communities negotiated to make 425 acres available to grow gardens.
- **Growing nutritious food:** Working with farmers to identify crops that could scale up and distribute seedlings, the program helped farmers grow 3,875 tons of vegetables.
- **Mobilized access to credit:** 120 VSLA groups with more than 3,500 members were able to create \$120,000 worth of loans in 2014 based on their savings of \$100,000.
- **Reduced conflict:** Peace committees that the project trained were able to identify 481 conflicts and get to a signed resolution on 187 of them.
- **Increased women’s access to peace processes:** The number of women involved in peace committees went up by 35% as a result of training and support from the project.
- **Supporting improved income:** 150 women are now earning higher incomes as a result of getting involved in milk production
- **Building networks for peace:** Communities have created 138 structures with 1,037 trained members for locally resolving conflict and promoting peace, including links between village peace committees and higher levels.



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